CLUB WALRUS, FLUVIAL EFFLUVIA, *and* KNOW NO NOW

by **KARL ERICKSON**

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My animations are about recognizing the agency of all the other-than-human entities with which we share the Earth. This includes plants and animals, as well as trash, machines, "inanimate matter," electricity, the macroscopic and the microscopic. The complex systems I use in my art-making, from photogrammetry to modular synthesizers to 3D animation are analogous to the complexity of the ecosystem. In my art, there is a breakdown in the established order of meaning, nonsense proliferates, and identities become unfixed. This is a challenge to the authoritative, single-minded way of understanding the world that values the accumulative power of 1+1=2 more than anything else.

These videos feature semi-autonomous digital puppets made from 3D scans of trash. They dance, collapse, tremble, and wreck the place. They sing about the end of the world and what comes next. The puppets are made from trash collected along the Mississippi River and Svalbard in the Arctic Circle, locations that are particularly vulnerable to human mistreatment.

The goal is to discover ways of thinking of life with which we share the world as a fragile assemblage of parts (plants, animals, trash, machines, etc.). Recognizing these assemblages, through the literalness of the puppets being built from trash, can inspire us to act with more respect for the other things with which we share the world. By assembling these "things" into digital puppets and anthropomorphizing them, they take on a sense of uncanny life, like that of physical puppets. Project support for *Fluvial Effluvia* provided by Tri-Star Arts/ Current Art Fund.

OPENING RECEPTION FRIDAY **MARCH 13**, 2026 **6-8**PM
ON VIEW THROUGH SUNDAY **JUNE 7**, 2026 *in the* **SCREENING ROOM** *and on the* **POP-OUT WALLS**

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pictured:
"CLUB WALRUS"
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